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BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE LAW OF RAILWAY BONDS AND MORTGAGES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WITH ILLUSTRATIVE CASES FROM THE ENGLISH AND COLONIAL COURTS. By EDWARD LYMAN SHORT, of the New York Bar; General Solicitor of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1897. \$6.50 net.

As stated in a very attractive preface, this volume is the outcome of studies made and authorities collected during the course of many years, in connection with the author's private practice, and gradually woven into its present form. There is reason to expect that a work thus prepared, and by a practitioner whose position as legal adviser of one of the greatest insurance companies of the world demands an intimate and practical acquaintance with corporate securities in every form, will exhibit only the most deliberately drawn conclusions, shaped from original sources. Nor is this expectation disappointed in the body of the work. It evinces throughout a careful, accurate and discriminating legal judgment. The authorities are full, and well digested. The author is not content merely to set down what the courts have declared to be the law of a particular case, but he brings to bear upon it his own conceptions, with the process of reasoning by which these are reached. The result is a philosophical treatise, and not a mere mass of case-law. The author's style is vigorous and agreeable, conspicuously lucid, and easily holding the attention and interest of the reader. The arrangement of the matter is most convenient for easy reference; the chapters being analytically subdivided, and the section-headings of each subdivision printed in bold-faced type, which readily catch the eye. The truth announced in the preface that "the chief value of the text-book to the practitioner lies in the fact that, when properly compiled, it will enable him to find any point in the law of his subject, which has either been decided, discussed or even referred to incidentally," has been borne in mind in the arrangement of the body of the text and in the preparation of the excellent index. The work is not confined to the substantive law of the subject, but deals fully with remedies, including jurisdiction of State and Federal courts, pleadings, the full law of receiverships, winding up, reorganization, and detailed procedure generally.

Mr. Short's work is a thorough, practical and comprehensive treatise on the important topic of railway and other corporate securities, and will no doubt become standard authority on this subject. The book should meet with a cordial reception from bench and bar.

SUMMARY OF TITLE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY, by CHARLES A. GRAVES, Professor of Common and Statute Law in Washington and Lee University.

This is a monograph of seventy-five pages, divided into three chapters and sixty-four sections. As its title imports, it is a "summary" of the law of the subject. The style is concise but clear, and the illustrations are abundant and apt. It contains the law in a nut-shell, fortified by well settled cases. While intended, primarily, for students, it is a very useful book to the practitioner, especially in Virginia and West Virginia. The treatment of the subject, however, is by no means local. The leading cases, English and American, are cited and commented

on. Chapter I. treats of title by Original Acquisition. In this chapter the author discusses Occupancy of Wild Animals, Title by Finding, Accession as a source of title, and other kindred subjects. Chapter II. treats of title by Gift. The chief subdivisions of this chapter are "Gifts *Inter Vivos*" and "Gifts *Mortis Causa*." The author discusses, in this chapter, What may be the subject of a gift, The execution of gifts, Constructive delivery, The Virginia statute of gifts, and numerous other questions of interest. Of course a large place is given to the celebrated case of *Thomas's Adm'r v. Lewis*.

Chapter III. treats of title by Sale. This chapter occupies nearly one-half of the book, and is of great practical value. The author, in discussing the subject of sales, treats of Potential Interests, Sales of property not in existence, The price to be paid, and Mutual Assent of Parties. The rights of Buyer and Seller respectively, Conditions, precedent and subsequent, Warranties, express and implied, occupy a large part of the discussion. The mere mention of the subjects indicates the practical value of the discussion.

Professor Graves has handled the subject with great discrimination and clearness, and has given the profession a very useful book. We expected to find an able discussion, and were not disappointed. We know of no other book that treats this subject so fully and clearly, within anything like the same space. It is excellent.

The book is provided with a table of cases, and a suitable index. The subordinate heads of the index, however, are not in alphabetical order, but follow the logical order of the discussion in the text. This may do for a monograph, but could hardly be commended for a larger book.

For sale by W. C. Stuart, Bookseller, Lexington, Va. Price, bound in law sheep, \$1.50.

M. P. BURKS.

LAWYERS REPORTS ANNOTATED.—We have just received volume 36 of this valuable series. It is full of valuable information. To those familiar with the series it is probably sufficient to say that it is fully up to the former volumes.

The selection of cases seems to have been made with a great deal of discrimination, but the cream of the book is the annotations. The book abounds with notes, and some of them are very full. Among the more important notes are the following: "Right of a creditor to buy property from his debtor in satisfaction of the debt." "Liability of a person whose signature is forged on commercial paper." "Power of municipal corporations to define, prevent and abate nuisances." "Liability of common carrier for baggage after reaching destination of passenger." "Presumption and burden of proof as to sanity." "What intoxication will excuse crime." "Criminal liability of infants."

These are only a few of the many valuable notes in the book, some of which are treatises on the subject. Our only adverse criticism of the book is the position in which the notes are placed. We should greatly prefer having them at the end of the opinion.

Published by Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y.

M. P. BURKS.

THE LAW OF MINES AND MINING IN THE UNITED STATES. By DANIEL MOREAU BARRINGER, A. M., LL. B., and JOHN STOKES ADAMS, A. R., LL. B., of the Philadelphia Bar. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1897. \$7.50 net.

A TREATISE ON THE AMERICAN LAW RELATING TO MINES AND MINERAL LANDS, WITHIN THE PUBLIC LAND STATES AND TERRITORIES, and Governing the Acquisition and Enjoyment of Mining Rights in Lands of the Public Domain. By CURTIS H. LINDLEY, of the San Francisco Bar. In two volumes. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company, Law Publishers and Law Booksellers. 1897.